

challenged by Democrat Rev. J. W. Kramer at the polls and the paper reported a riot at the precinct. Kramer declared that Stevens was insane and ineligible to vote. The *Messenger* belittled Stevens as a “half-witted negro who imagined a year or so ago that he had a cinch on the mayoralty.” Before any other African Americans could step in, Stevens continued to insist on his ability to register and threatened a lawsuit. At this point, Carter Peamon, a barber and community leader, stepped in to advocate on behalf of Stevens in the face of several Red Shirts, including S. Hill Terry. Peamon and Terry got into a scuffle in which Peamon snatched a knife out of Terry’s hands. The scuffle was settled and then Peamon told Rev. Kramer that he wished he could “slap the jaws of every white man.” It is unclear if Stevens was allowed to register but the fortitude of the white registrars and Red Shirts probably prevented his registration. Drake has been profiled in Chapter 4 of this report.

Taylor, John E.

Taylor was the Deputy Customs Collector for the city in 1898 and served in that role for a total of 25 years. His home was at 122 N. 8th Street. Taylor was born in 1858 and was a graduate of Howard University. In 1896, he was made City Clerk and Treasurer. Taylor owned a great deal of property and was president of the Metropolitan Trust Company. Taylor has been profiled in Chapter 8 of this report.

Telfair, Rev. James W.

Telfair was a member of the Committee of Colored Citizens summoned to hear the demands of Waddell and the Committee of 25 on November 9, 1898. Telfair was a minister at Mt. Zion AME Church and was a Mason. His home was at 615 Walnut Street. Telfair had been a slave of the deRossett family and later worked as a manager at the Sprunt Cotton Compress. Telfair remained in the city after the violence and died at his home in 1914. He remained a minister after the violence.

Telfair was 60 at the time of the violence and had worked in the city as a ship’s carpenter in 1870 and as a stevedore. In 1897 and 1900, he owned taxable property valued at \$750 dollars in blocks 223 and 96.

Sources: Prather, *We Have Taken a City*; Reaves, *Strength Through Struggle*; 1860-1930 census; 1897, 1900 city directories; Bill Reaves Collection, New Hanover County Public Library; McDuffie, “Politics in Wilmington;” Cody, “After the Storm;” 1890, 1897, 1900 New Hanover County Tax Lists

Toomer , Frank P.

Toomer was a policeman in the city under Mayor Silas Wright and was one of the black men banished from the city on November 11, 1898. In late November, 1898, Toomer wrote Waddell from New Bern to request to return to the city. Waddell responded that Toomer should not return because he had been “obnoxious” to people and it was best for him to stay away. Toomer was not found in the 1880 Census although there were several people with that surname in the county. Toomer lived at 916 Love Avenue in 1897. Toomer married Rose Wilson in 1871 in Wilmington.

Sources: Prather, *We Have Taken a City*; Reaves, *Strength Through Struggle*; 1860-1930 census; 1897, 1900 city directories; Bill Reaves Collection, New Hanover County Public Library; McDuffie, “Politics in Wilmington;” Cody, “After the Storm;” 1890, 1897, 1900 New Hanover County Tax Lists

Walker, Andrew

African American community leader Andrew Walker was an Alderman from the first ward under Silas Wright and was forced to resign during the coup led by Waddell on November 10, 1898. Walker owned a considerable amount of property in the city and worked as a stevedore. In 1880, Walker (age 29) lived in the city with his sister Polly and worked as a stevedore. By 1890, Walker owned taxable property in 3 blocks worth \$1,400. By 1897, his property values had remained constant at \$1,450 and by 1900, the value had increased to \$2,100 including the addition of an extra property. Walker lived at 1107 N. 5th Street. Walker had been an officer in the 3rd Regiment, North Carolina Volunteers for the Spanish American war but returned to Wilmington in June, 1898. Walker was active at Central Baptist Church and died in 1907.

Sources: Prather, *We Have Taken a City*; Reaves, *Strength Through Struggle*; 1860-1930 census; 1897, 1900 city directories; Bill Reaves Collection, New Hanover County Public Library; McDuffie, “Politics in Wilmington;” Cody, “After the Storm;” 1890, 1897, 1900 New Hanover County Tax Lists

Webber, John H.